

C. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNITS

Purpose: This section contains the rules and procedures regarding the establishment of medical assistance units (MAU), for one or more family members whose eligibility for medical care is determined separately or together based on financial responsibility.

WAC 388-408-0055 Medical Assistance Units.

- (1) A medical assistance unit (MAU) is determined on the basis of relationship and financial responsibility.
 - (a) Married persons, living together are financially responsible for each other;
 - (b) Parents are financially responsible for their unmarried, minor children living in the same household;
 - (c) A parent's financial responsibility is limited when their minor child is receiving inpatient chemical dependency or mental health treatment. Only the income a parent chooses to contribute to the child is considered available when:
 - (i) The treatment is expected to last ninety days or more;
 - (ii) The child is in court-ordered out-of-home care in accordance with chapter 13.34 RCW; or
 - (iii) The department determines the parents are not exercising responsibility for the care and control of the child.
 - (d) Minor children are not financially responsible for their parents or for their siblings.
- (2) Certain situations require the establishment of separate MAUs for some family members living in the same household. Separate MAUs are established for:
 - (a) A pregnant minor, regardless of whether she lives with her parent(s);
 - (b) A child with income;

- (c) A child with resources which makes another family member ineligible for medical assistance;
 - (d) A child of unmarried parents when both parents reside with the child;
 - (e) Each unmarried parent of a child in common, plus any of their children who are not in separate MAUs;
 - (f) A caretaker relative that is not financially responsible for the support of the child;
 - (g) SSI recipients or SSI-related persons from the non-SSI related family members;
 - (h) The purpose of applying medical income standards for an:
 - (i) SSI-related applicant whose spouse is not relatable to SSI or is not applying for SSI-related medical; and
 - (ii) Ineligible spouse of an SSI-recipient.
- (3) Only the parent's income actually contributed to a pregnant minor is considered income to the minor.
- (4) A parent's income up to one hundred percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is allocated to the parent and other members of the parent's MAU. The excess is allocated among their children in separate MAUs.
- (5) A parent's resources are allocated equally among the parent and all persons in the parent's household for whom the parent is financially responsible. This includes family members in separate MAUs.
- (6) Countable income for medical programs is described in WAC 388-450-0150 and 388-450-0210.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

1. A pregnant unmarried minor is considered a separate MAU. Only the income actually contributed by her parents is considered available to the pregnant minor. This applies whether or not the pregnant minor is living in the parent's home. The parents of the pregnant minor have no financial responsibility for the medical care of the minor's unborn child.
2. A separate MAU is established if a caretaker relative, other than the parent, of minor children is in need of medical assistance. None of the caretaker relative's income is considered available to their minor relatives, (e.g. grandmother's income is not available to her grandchildren).
3. Family members who are receiving SSI or are SSI-related are separate MAUs from other members of the family.
4. The process of establishing separate MAUs for children and other family members because of financial responsibility rules is often referred to as Sneece/Kizer. Sneece v. Kizer is the name of a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals class action settlement which specifies how the separate income or resources of family members who are not financially responsible for other family members affects the medical assistance eligibility of other family members.
5. When a family is not eligible because their total income exceeds the medical program standards but a child or other non-financially responsible family member has separate income, that person is established as their own MAU.
6. If the resources of a child, or other non-financially responsible family member, when included with the total families resources, makes another family member ineligible, the person with the resources is established as their own MAU.
7. None of the income or resources of the children in the separate MAUs is available to the other MAUs in the family. Because parents are financially responsible for their children, a portion of the parent's income and resources is allocated to their children in separate MAUs.

WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

Determining the Family as a Unit

Determine a family's eligibility as one unit. Consider the entire family's income and resources together. Count all family members who live together to determine the appropriate family size when comparing to the income and resource standards. Count each verified unborn as an additional family member. If the family is eligible as a unit, process the medical application as one MAU.

Determining Separate Medical Assistance Units

1. If the family is not eligible as a unit because of excess income or resources and a child or children in the family have separate income or resources, establish each child with income or resources as a separate MAU. The balance of the family members are established as another MAU.
2. Establish eligibility for members of each of the MAUs.

EXAMPLE 1

A single mother and two children, one of the children gets child support. The mother is financially responsible for herself and both children. The children are not responsible for their mother or each other. Establish 2 MAUs:

MAU 1: The mother and the child with no income
MAU 2: The child with income

EXAMPLE 2

Unmarried parents who have a common child and also each have a separate child. The unmarried parents are not financially responsible for each other or for each other's child. They are each financially responsible for themselves, their own child and their common child. Establish 3 MAUs.

MAU 1: The mother and her child
MAU 2: The father and his child
MAU 3: The common child

If either of the children in MAU 1 or 2 had separate income, there could be more than the three MAUs in this family.

EXAMPLE 3

Grandmother and her two grandchildren. One child has his own income. The grandmother is not financially responsible for either grandchild. The children are not financially responsible for each other. Establish 3 MAUs.

MAU 1:	The grandmother
MAU 2:	The child with income
MAU 3:	The child with no income

EXAMPLE 4

A single mother and two children. The mother has \$900 in a savings account and each child has his own \$1200 saving account. The children have separate resources which makes another family member (their mother) ineligible for CN medical. Establish 3 MAUs.

MAU 1:	The mother
MAU 2:	Child with separate resources
MAU 3:	Child with separate resources

Allocating Income or Resources to MAUs

Parents are financially responsible for their children. A portion of the parent's income and resources is allocated to their children in separate MAUs. A parent's income, in excess of 100% of the FPL (See **STANDARDS**) for the parent and other members of the parent's MAU, is allocated as income to the child in a separate MAU. A parent's resources are allocated equally among the members of the parent's MAU and the members of the separate MAUs for which the parent is responsible.

EXAMPLE 1

A mother and her two children apply. The mother has earned income of \$2,200 a month and receives child support of \$300 a month for one of the children. The family has no countable resources.

Determine the family's eligibility together:

\$2200	Mother's earnings
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ELIGIBILITY A-Z**Assistance Units**

+ 300	Child support for one child
<u>\$2500</u>	Total Income
-1100	50% work incentive
<u>- 400</u>	Child care expense
\$1000	Countable income

The family is not eligible for family CN medical because the countable income of \$1000 exceeds the CNIL of \$546 for a family of 3.

Establish two separate MAUs:

MAU 1:	The mother and child without income
MAU 2:	The child with income

NOTE: When determining eligibility for family medical (F04), use the 50% work incentive. When determining eligibility for a program with the income standard based on the FPL (e.g. F06), use the \$90 work incentive.

Determine family medical (F04) eligibility for mother and child in **MAU 1** using the same process as used for the entire family.

\$2200	Mother's earnings
-1100	50% work incentive
<u>- 400</u>	Child care expense
\$ 700	Countable income

The \$700 income exceeds the 2 person CNIL of \$440 so the members of MAU 1 are not eligible for family medical (F04) CN. Now determine eligibility for the child in MAU 1 for children's CN medical.

\$2200	Mother's earnings
- 90	Work incentive for an FPL related program
<u>- 400</u>	Child care expense
\$1710	Countable income
<u>- 995</u>	2 person 100% FPL for the needs of the mother and child in MAU 2 (this is the only income available to MAU 1)
\$ 715	Income allocated to child in MAU 2

NOTE: The maximum income available in a parent's MAU, after allocations have been made to other MAUs, is 100% FPL for the number of person in the parent's MAU.

\$ 995 2 person 100% FPL is the only countable income. It is below the 2 person 200% FPL, so the child in MAU 1 is eligible for children CN medical.

MAU 2.

\$ 300 Child support
+715 Income allocated from the mother
\$1015 Total countable income for MAU 2

The child in MAU 2 is eligible for children's CN medical (F06) because countable income is below the 1 person 200% FPL income standard.

EXAMPLE 2

A mother and one child apply. The total income to the family is \$550; \$400 is child support and \$150 is veteran's benefit payments for the child. All of the income is the child's.

Determine the family's eligibility together:

\$550 Total income (unearned)

The total family income exceeds the 2 person CNIL of \$440 so the family is not eligible for CN family medical (F04).

Establish two separate MAUs:

MAU 1: Mother
MAU 2: Child

MAU 1.

\$0 Income

The mother has no countable income so she is eligible for CN family medical (F04). Since the mother has no income, none will be allocated to the child.

MAU 2.

\$ 150	Veteran's benefits
<u>+ 400</u>	Child support
\$ 550	

This income is below the 1 person 200% FPL so the child in MAU 2 is eligible for children's CN medical.

EXAMPLE 3

A father and 1 child apply. He receives UC payments of \$400 a month and child support of \$550 a month. They have no countable resources.

Determine the family's eligibility together:

\$ 950	Total income (unearned)
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This amount exceeds the 2 person CNIL amount of \$440 so the family is not eligible for TANF-related CN medical.

Establish two separate MAUs

MAU 1:	Father
MAU 2:	Child

MAU 1

\$ 400	UC income
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The countable income for MAU 1 is below the 1 person CNIL amount of \$440, so the father is eligible for CN family medical (F04). Since his countable income is below the 1 person 100% FPL amount, none of his income is allocated to his child in MAU 2.

MAU 2

\$ 550 Child support

Since none of the father's income is allocated the child's only income is child support which is below the 1 person 200% FPL. The child is eligible for children's CN medical.

EXAMPLE 4

A mother and her two children apply. The mother has UC income of \$400. One of the children has \$2500 in a savings account, established by her grandmother. The mother has \$900 in a savings account.

Determine the family's eligibility together:

\$ 400 UC income (unearned)
\$3400 Countable resources (\$2500 + \$900)

The income is below the 3 person CNIL but the resources exceed the standard of \$1000 for applicants. The family is not eligible for CN family medical because of the resources of one child.

Establish two separate MAUs

MAU 1: Mother and child without resources
MAU 2: Child with resources

MAU 1

\$ 400 UC income (unearned)
\$ 600 2/3 of mother's resources (for herself and child in her MAU)

The income is below the 2 person CNIL of \$440 and the countable resources are below the \$1000 standard, so the members of MAU 2 are eligible for CN family medical (F04).

MAU 2

\$ 0 Income (mother's income is below the 2 person 100% FPL so none is allocated)

\$2800 Resources (\$2500 +\$300, allocation of 1/3 of mother's countable resources)

The child in MAU 2 is eligible for children's CN medical because the countable income is below the 1 person 200% FPL and there are no resource limits for this program.

EXAMPLE 5

Unmarried parents with a common child live together and they each have a separate child. The mother has earnings of \$1000 and her child receives \$300 of child support. The father receives 1150 UC and his child has no income or resources. The parents have no resources.

In this example establish 4 separate MAUs:

MAU 1:	Mother
MAU 2:	Father and his child
MAU 3:	Their common child
MAU 4:	The mother's child with income

Family medical (F04) for MAU 1

\$1000	Mother's earnings
- 500	Work incentive
- 300	Child care expense
\$ 200	Countable income

Since the mother's income is below the one person 100% FPL, none of her income will be allocated to her children in MAU 3 and 4. Her countable income of \$200 is below the 1 person CNIL. She is eligible for CN medical.

Family medical (F04) for MAU 2

\$ 1150	UC income (unearned)
- 995	2 person 100% FPL (needs of the father and child in MAU 2)
\$155	Income allocated to the child in MAU 3

The father's UC income of \$1150 is above the two person 100% FPL allowed for his and his child's needs in MAU 2. \$155 is allocated to his child in MAU 3. His countable income for determining eligibility for himself and child in MAU 2 is \$995.

\$ 995 2 person 100% FPL

This income exceeds the 2 person CNIL of \$440, so the members of MAU 2 are not eligible for CN medical (F04). His child in MAU 2 is eligible for children's CN medical (F06) because the income is below the two person 200% FPL.

Neither of the parents have excess resources so none are allocated to the children in MAUs 3 or 4.

MAU 3

\$ 155 Income allocated from father in MAU 2

Since this is the only income and it is below the 1 person 200% FPL, this child is eligible for children's CN medical (F06).

MAU 4

\$ 300 Child support

Since this income is below the 1 person 200% FPL, this child is eligible for children's CN medical (F06).

NOTE: When a family includes an SSI-related person who is not found eligible for Medicaid under this chapter, refer to Chapter 388-475 WAC.